

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 8, 9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 8, 9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oxford (US 6,405,092).

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Response:

Claim 8 has been amended to distinguish from the cited prior art. Claim 8 now recites the steps of “setting a loading delay according to a **coarse component** of a volume control signal”, “in parallel, forwarding a segment of the received bits at the expiry of the loading delay”, and “processing the segment of bits into an analog audio signal, wherein the positions of the bits in the segment are directly related to the volume of the analog audio signal”. These steps adjust the volume of an analog audio signal by using a coarse component of a volume control signal to adjust the positions of bits of the digital audio signal.

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Furthermore, claim 8 also recites the step of “receiving a **fine component** of the volume control signal and accordingly attenuating or amplifying the analog audio signal by an amount less than a unit attenuation or amplification resulting from a minimum adjustment of the loading delay”. Therefore, claim 8 recites shifting bits to produce a coarse volume adjustment and attenuating or amplifying to produce a fine volume adjustment. The amendments to claim 8 are fully supported in the specification and in the original claim 11. No new matter has been added.

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As none of the prior art references teach these claimed steps for producing coarse and fine volume adjustments, the currently amended claim 8 is patentable over the cited prior art.

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Claim 9 is dependent on claim 8, and should be allowed if claim 8 is allowed.
Reconsideration of claims 8 and 9 is therefore respectfully requested.

2. Rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

5 Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oxford.

Response:

Claim 10 is dependent on claim 8, and should be allowed if claim 8 is allowed.
Reconsideration of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

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3. Rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Oxford in view of Christopher (US 4,731,851) and further in view of Hasegawa et al
(US 4,931,796).

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Response:

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claims 2, 3,
and 4. Claim 4 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form
including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such,
20 claim 1 should now be in allowable form. In addition, the preamble of both claims 1
and 5 were amended to claim a “digital audio volume control circuit”. No new
matter is added by any of these amendments.

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As claim 1 is now in allowable form reconsideration of claim 1 is respectfully
requested.

4. Rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oxford,

Christopher, and Hasegawa in further view of Bien (US 6,388,525).

Response:

Claim 3 has been cancelled, and is no longer in need of consideration.

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5. Rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oxford, Christopher, and Hasegawa in further view of Ledzius et al. (US 5,339,079).

10 **Response:**

Claim 5 is dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed.
Reconsideration of claim 5 is respectfully requested.

6. Rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

15 Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oxford in view of Ledzius.

Response:

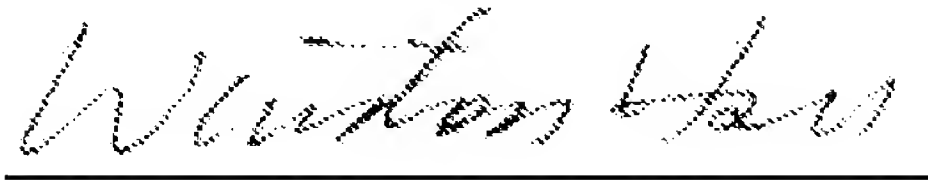
20 Claim 12 is dependent on claim 8, and should be allowed if claim 8 is allowed.
Reconsideration of claim 12 is respectfully requested.

In view of the claim amendments and the above arguments in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,



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- 10 Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.)